

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01450 081824Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 MC-02

TRSE-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 COME-00

ACDA-19 SAJ-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 039138

R 081740Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 115

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1450

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, BEXP, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104G'S

REF: BRUSSELS 1392

1. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY CALL ON MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE
MARCH 7 TO LEAVE WITH HIM AND POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON
A COPY OF MY MESSAGE TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE VANDEN
BOEYNANTS.

2. I EXPLAINED TO THE MINISTER THAT THIS MESSAGE DELIVERED
ON BEHALF OF THE USG CONCERNED A MOST IMPORTANT MATTER FOR THE
ALLIANCE SINCE IT WAS A MATERIAL TEST OF OUR ABILITY TO
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01450 081824Z

COOPERATE. I ALSO STRESSED THAT IF THE BELGIANS WERE

TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE AMERICAN PLANES WE WOULD SEEK TO
PERSUADE THE OTHER POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS TO BUY THE SAME
AIRCRAFT.

3. DAVIGNON SAID THAT THIS ASSURANCE AS TO OUR INTENTIONS
VIS-A-VIS OTHER PURCHASERS WAS MOST IMPORTANT. HE POINTED
OUT THAT ONLY THUS COULD AN ORDER OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE
BE DEVELOPED TO ASSURE A PRACTICAL PROCUREMENT PROGRAM.

4. FROM DAVIGNON'S COMMENTS IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS WELL
ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROS AND CONS OF BOTH THE SUPER MIRAGE
AND THE COBRA. HE REFERRED TO THE EXISTENCE OF AN INTER-
MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, DEFENSE, FOREIGN, AND ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS WHICH WAS COORDINATING THE REPLACEMENT QUESTION
WITHIN THE GOB. HE PROMISED THAT THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE
WOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN THAT FORUM.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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